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ROSA PARKS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, 58 years ago a woman named Rosa Parks took a seat on a bus in Montgomery and refused to give it up.

Tomorrow Rosa Parks will take her place in the Halls of the United States Capitol when her statue joins other great American women like Helen Keller and Sojourner Truth, who stand sentinel over average citizens and Members of Congress alike in this hallowed place, reminding us of the quality of courage and the humble face of justice.

I'm proud to welcome fellow San Pedroan Eugene Daub, the talented artist and sculptor who created this magnificent statue, to the Nation's Capitol. San Pedro is a community for artists in Los Angeles.

It means a lot to San Pedro that a member of our own community was chosen to commemorate the woman whose quiet dignity and defiance inspired a nation to stand up against the daily injustice of Jim Crow. What an honor for Mr. Daub and the entire San Pedro artist community.

Rosa Parks would have been 100 years old this year, but I know that this is only the first century that we will be inspired by her example and this statue.

ACADEMIC COMPETITION
RESOLUTION OF 2013

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Academic Competition Resolution of 2013. The resolution, which will establish a yearly academic competition in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics each year in each congressional district, will be much like the long-standing art competition, one in which individuals in the STEM areas—science, mathematics, and engineering—will compete for their best accomplishments.

Art is important; English is important. But today, our greatest shortfalls are in the areas in which these young men and women need to go, need to be interested. Nothing will more promote STEM degrees, the type we need for sciences, for our accomplishments in Silicon Valley and throughout America, than saying it's important enough by an annual competition.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

(Mr. BERA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, the American public is tired of the

blame game. They want to see real solutions. Irresponsible, across-the-board spending cuts are not a real solution. If we don't act to avoid these spending cuts, we threaten the very safety of our community and our country.

There will be \$50 million cut from firefighting funding. In my own district, that's \$1.5 million in SAFER grants. Let me translate that. My fire chief, Kurt Henke, says that's the equivalent of one engine company and slower response times. People are going to be unsafe, homes are going to burn. We have to act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to lock us in a room and cut a deal. Let's figure out how to avoid sequestration. This is devastating to our economy and our country.

OUR BEST DAYS ARE STILL
AHEAD

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce myself to my new colleagues, some of whom I've not had the chance to meet since joining this distinguished body.

I've served as a high school teacher for 23 years, and I believe the diverse community of the 41st District sent me here because they believe fervently that education is the key to achieving the American Dream. They see a teacher as an emblem of hope.

As a community college trustee for 22 years, I've gained an understanding of the critical role our Nation's community colleges play in workforce training and providing a pathway toward college degrees for middle class families. We must prepare our young people to be the innovators, scientists, and engineers that will keep our economic future strong and secure.

And I'm proud that the people of my district chose to press boldly into the future and make me the first openly gay person of color to serve in the House. As the grandson of an Issei gardener and an Issei small farmer, I stand in the well of this House as the expression of three generations of striving and as a testament to the endurance of the American Dream.

Our Nation's best days are still ahead, and there are many more dreams to be made.

CARDISS COLLINS

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my predecessor, who came to the House basically as an auditor, an accountant, not one who was greatly involved in public activity but quickly learned the ways of the House, became chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus

Foundation, and a leading voice in equity for women in sports.

I lived in the same community that she and her husband lived in, and our community is especially proud of the accomplishments of the honorable Cardiss Collins.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, the effects of the sequester are broad and far reaching.

Up to 2,600 NOAA employees expect to be furloughed and 2,700 positions not filled, which will affect managing our natural resources and our ability to address climate change.

Climate change is real. According to the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment, across the Pacific Islands region, the frequency and intensity of climate extremes are changing.

Hawaii is usually thought of as a lush, green paradise, but droughts have been more frequent and prolonged. For example, earlier this month the Big Island of Hawaii was declared a natural disaster due to ongoing extreme drought conditions going back to July of 2008. This is causing havoc for our farmers and ranchers. Waikiki, a highly visited and well-known treasure around the world, would be wetlands with beaches gone by the end of the century.

We must take action. We cannot afford to ignore this problem that is currently and will continue to wreak havoc across the globe for generations.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. America is facing some very serious problems, and they're looking to Congress for a solution.

What have we done this week since the sequester is coming on Friday? We had one vote yesterday, and that was to rename a flight center, and we have one vote today. And these are good votes, but just two votes. Friday is looming, and America wants us to answer the sequester.

We heard the Speaker say that they have put two bills before the floor, but they have not been acceptable. We need to compromise.

We also heard the Speaker say recently to the Senate to get going and get moving, and I would suggest that the House should do the same thing. We need to reach out and compromise, find the solution that can pass this House, pass the Senate, and become law.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

(Mr. CASTRO of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House